

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, A method of regenerating an activated carbon fiber having mercury adsorbed thereon, comprising applying a voltage between a first electrode made from used activated carbon fiber in which mercury is adsorbed and a second electrode, acting as a counter electrode to the first electrode, so as to elute the mercury from the first electrode in an ionic state, in an electrolyte, wherein said first electrode is used as an anode, and wherein the electrolyte is sulfuric acid.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, A method of regenerating an activated carbon fiber having mercury adsorbed thereon, comprising applying a voltage between a first electrode made from used activated carbon fiber in which mercury is adsorbed and a second electrode, acting as a counter electrode to the first electrode, so as to elute the mercury from the first electrode in an ionic state, in an electrolyte, wherein the electrolyte is sulfuric acid.

Claims 20-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, A method of regenerating an activated carbon fiber having mercury adsorbed thereon, comprising applying a voltage between a first electrode made from used activated carbon fiber in which mercury is adsorbed and a second electrode, acting as a counter electrode to the first electrode, so as to elute the mercury from the first electrode in an ionic state, in an electrolyte, wherein said applying comprises sweeping the voltage in a range from a positive voltage to a negative voltage, and wherein the electrolyte is sulfuric acid.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled) The method of claim 21, wherein the electrolyte includes a material selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride and sodium carbonate.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, A method of regenerating an activated carbon fiber having mercury adsorbed thereon, comprising applying a voltage between a first electrode made from used activated carbon fiber in which mercury is adsorbed and a second electrode, acting as a counter electrode to the first electrode, so as to elute the mercury from the first electrode in an ionic state, in an electrolyte, wherein the mercury desorbed from the used activated carbon fiber is precipitated by an inverse reaction on said second electrode so as to recover the mercury.

Claims 27-30 (Canceled)